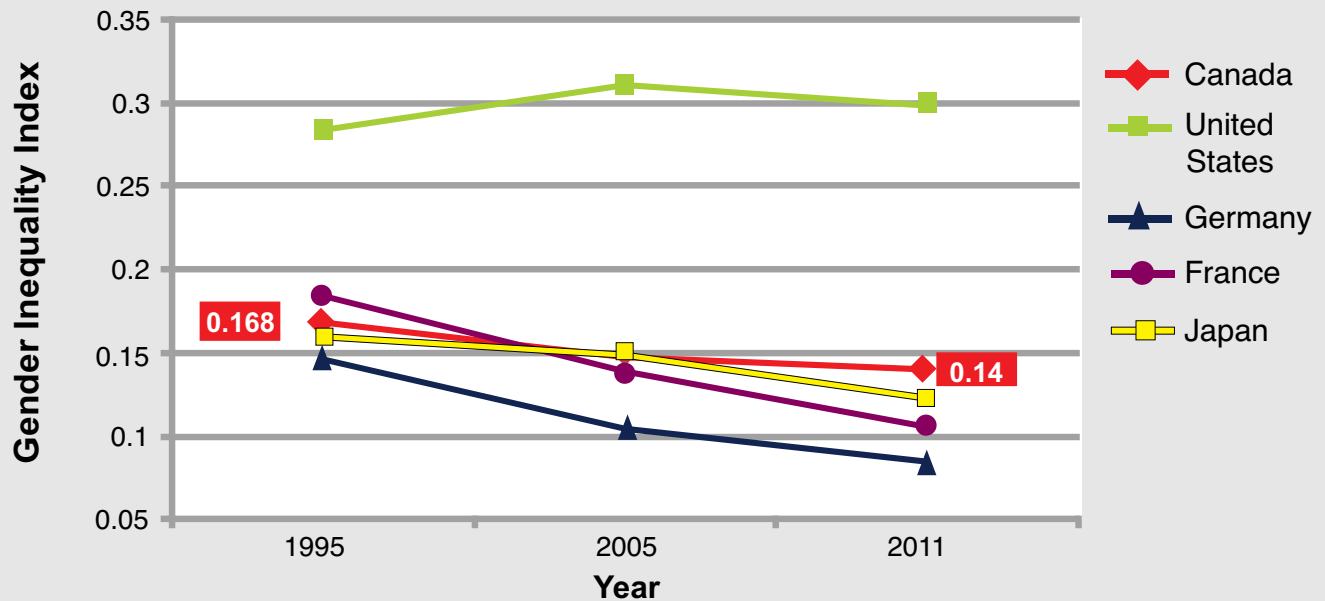




5.2.6 Gender Inequities

Fig. 5.2.6 Gender Inequality Index*, Canada and select countries, 1995–2011



*The Gender Inequality Index, which ranges from 0 to 1, is a composite measure of inequality in achievements between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment, and the labour market. A Gender Inequality value of 0 indicates perfect equality between the sexes; a value of 1 indicates the worst inequality in all three areas.

UNDP Human Development Reports. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/gii/>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

Worldwide, gender inequality improved from 1995 to 2011. Over that time, Canada's index value improved slightly, from 0.168 to 0.140. In comparison, in the United States, gender inequality worsened between 1995 and 2011.

Implications

Although women's participation in the labour force has been increasing, women continue to earn less than men in Canada. Given that the majority of lone-parent families are headed by females, it is problematic that women are still earning less than men. Female lone parents are also less likely to be employed than mothers in two-parent families. In 2009, 68.9% of female lone parents with children less than age 16 living at home were employed compared with 73.8% of their counterparts in two-parent families.¹

¹ Ferrao V. (2010). "Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report: Paid Work." Statistics Canada. Available at: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2010001/article/11387-eng.pdf>. Accessed on June 29, 2012.

